Florida Department of Transportation

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ESTIMATES BULLETIN 13-04

DATE: May 10, 2013

TO: District Design Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Traffic
           Operation Engineers and District Estimates Coordinators

FROM: Phillip Greg Davis, State Estimates Engineer

COPIES TO: Trey Tillander, Rudy Powell, Michael Shepherd, Mark Wilson, and Joseph Santos

SUBJECT: Lump Sum and Special Design Pay Items on Pushbutton Contracts

BACKGROUND

Pushbutton Contracts provide the Department with a means of quickly responding to critical highway construction needs via a competitively bid indefinite quantity contract. The work on these contracts is initiated via work order on an as needed basis to address these needs. Within the contract, an estimated quantity is provided for bidding purposes. Bidders/Contractors understand that actual quantities may vary, depending on the scope of the work identified in each work order. Payment is based on the authorized work completed by the contractor.

Due to the scope of these contracts, plan details are not available at the time of bid. Existing specifications and standards will apply, subject to contract specific revisions (notes, Technical Special Provisions, or other information available at the time of bid). Pay items requiring plan details, such as Lump Sum and/or Special Design pay items, cannot be defined appropriately for pushbutton contracts and thus will be difficult to bid.

Traditional Lump Sum items are not appropriate for use on pushbutton contracts due to the unknown quantities and scope of work. For Special Design pay items, sufficient details are needed to define the materials, dimensions, installation requirements, and acceptance criteria. Since this information is not available at the time of bid, **Lump Sum or Special Design pay items shall not be used on a pushbutton contract with indefinite quantities.** For the purpose of a pushbutton contract, standard unit pay items can be established in lieu of the lump sum pay items thru the pay item request process, or a generic pay items can be used for special design pay items with limited details.

IMPLEMENTATION

For projects let July 2013 or later, ensure that Pushbutton Contracts with indefinite quantities do not include Lump Sum or Special Design pay items. Please coordinate with the appropriate District Estimates Office if assistance is needed to select an appropriate pay item.

Basis of Estimates: Chapter 7 of the Basis of Estimates Manual will be updated to reflect the above requirement.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Melissa Hollis, at Melissa.Hollis@dot.state.fl.us or 850-414-4182.